1892MNRAS..52..508L

undoubtedly too great. It is to be recollected that till lately, omitting from notice Sir John Herschel's observations, the distance measures, from which the value of the semi-axis has to be drawn, were generally much less than the quantity to be derived from them; consequently, a small error in a measure entailed a comparatively large one on the semi-axis. Now, however, for a good many years, the semi-axis will be less than the distance measures; therefore the former will no doubt be obtained with very considerable accuracy. So far as I can judge at present, the semi-axis major will not differ much from 18″·4.

It is to be hoped that observers occupying favourable localities will spare some portion of their time for the observation of α *Centauri.* Of late years, so far as I am aware, Mr. Tebbutt has been left almost alone to occupy the field; and all who are interested in the orbit of that binary must feel that they are much indebted to that astronomer for his assiduous attention to the star.

Streatham Hill:
1892 *April.*

Estimations of the magnitude of Nova Aurigæ.

By J. Gerh. Lohse.

1892 February 1, 6^h 25^m G.M.T., 26 Aurigæ = Nova, 26 Aurigæ 1 Nova, Nova 3 *b*. The star *b* is south preceding of Nova Aurigæ.

February 3, 11^h 10^m G.M.T., Nova 2 χ Aurigæ.
February 4, 6^h 40^m G.M.T., Nova = χ Aurigæ.
February 5, 7^h 20^m G.M.T., Nova 3, perhaps 5, χ Aurigæ.
February 6, 7^h 10^m G.M.T., Nova 7 χ Aurigæ.

February 8, 8^h 0^m G.M.T., Nova Aurigæ not certainly identified owing to the close neighbourhood of the Moon. If the identification is right Nova is 8 χ Aurigæ.

February 9, 10^h 25^m G.M.T., Nova 3 χ Aurigæ, 10^h 40^m G.M.T., Nova 2 χ Aurigæ.

February 10, 7^h 40^m G.M.T., Nova = χ Aurigæ.

February 22, 10^h 48^m G.M.T., 26 Aurigæ 3 Nova, Nova = *b*, Nova is a little red.

March 23, 11^h 0^m G.M.T., Nova has become invisible.
March 24, 10^h 30^m G.M.T., Nova is invisible.

The observations were made with an opera-glass by Schröder.

The magnitudes of the comparison stars are according to the Bonn Durch-Musterung: χ Aurigæ = 4·8 magnitude, 26 Aurigæ = 6·0 magnitude, *b* = 6·2 magnitude.

The observations make *b* ·3 of a magnitude fainter than 26 Aurigæ, 6·3 has therefore been adopted for the magnitude of

1892MNRAS..52..508L

b, while the values of the Durch-Musterung were taken for the two other stars.

The estimated magnitudes of Nova Aurigæ therefore are:—

Date. 1892.	Greenwich Mean Time. h m	Magnitude of Nova Aurigæ.
Feb. 1	6 25	6·0
3	11 10	4·6
4	6 40	4·8
5	7 20	4·4
6	7 10	4·1
8	8 0	4·0 (?)
9	10 32	4·55
10	7 40	4·8
22	10 48	6·3
Mar. 23	11 0	Invisible with the Opera-Glass.
24	10 30	,, ,, ,,

Comparison of Magnitudes of Nova Aurigæ and neighbouring stars, made with the Newall Telescope, Observatory, Cambridge. By H. F. Newall, M.A.

Observations on the brightness of the Nova have been made on many occasions since the discovery of the star was announced. Those of more recent date may be of interest, since all the comparison stars are mapped by Burnham (*Monthly Notices*, April, p. 433).

1892.	Nova.	Burnham's Comparison Stars.
Mar. 24	Fainter than	F 10·4
29	Brighter than	G 11·5
31	Equal to	G 11·5
	Brighter than	H 11·8
	Fainter than	E 11·7
Apr. 1	Fainter than	E 11·7
6	Fainter than	I 11·8
8	Fainter than	J 12·7
11	N. glimpsed whilst B 14·8 was not seen.	
13	N. suspected once in many attempts to see it.	
19	N. not seen or glimpsed, though B 14·8 and M were seen.	
27	N. not seen; ground dark and comparison stars well seen.	

The companion to E was well seen, but C and D have not been seen. K I cannot speak of. All the other stars were

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